IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Canceled)
2. (Canceled)
3. (Canceled)
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24. (Canceled)
25. (Canceled)
26. (Canceled)
27. (Canceled)

28. (Canceled)

29. (Currently amended) A system for improving the collapse resistance of an expandable device, comprising:

an expandable tubular system for use in a wellbore environment, the expandable tubular system having a tubular member with a plurality of radial openings therethrough and a first layer overlapping a second layer along an exterior of the tubular member; and

a locking mechanism, wherein upon expansion of the expandable tubular system, the locking mechanism facilitates maintaining the expandable tubular system in the expanded condition.

30. (Canceled)

31. (Currently amended) The system as recited in claim 29 ~~30~~, wherein the first layer and the second layer are formed of a filter material wrapped about the tubular member.

32. (Original) The system as recited in claim 31, wherein the locking mechanism is coupled to the first layer and to the second layer.

33. (Original) The system as recited in claim 32, wherein the locking mechanism comprises ratchet teeth.

34. (Original) The system as recited in claim 32, wherein the locking mechanism comprises detents.

35. (Original) The system as recited in claim 32, wherein the locking mechanism comprises angled bristles.

36. (Original) The system as recited in claim 32, wherein the locking mechanism comprises a plurality of vanes.

37. (Canceled)

38. (Canceled)

39. (Canceled)

40. (Canceled)

41. (Canceled)

42. (Canceled)

43. (Currently amended) A method of utilizing a sand screen within a wellbore, comprising:

delivering a sand screen to a wellbore region having a nonuniform diameter formed by a cased section and an openhole section;

applying an expansion force to the sand screen in a radially outward direction; and

expanding the sand screen to substantially eliminate any annulus between the sand screen and the wellbore region having the nonuniform diameter.

44. (Previously presented) The method as recited in claim 43, wherein expanding comprises creating contact between the sand screen and a wall defining the wellbore region.

45. (Previously presented) The method as recited in claim 44, wherein expanding comprises applying an outwardly directed force against the wall with the sand screen.

46. (Previously presented) The method as recited in claim 44 wherein expanding comprises expanding the sand screen into the wellbore region having two dissimilar diameters.

47. (Previously presented) The method as recited in claim 43, wherein applying comprises moving an expansion tool through an interior of the sand screen.

48. (Currently amended) A system for filtering in a wellbore environment, comprising:

a sand screen having a plurality of expandable filter sections and at least one seal section comprising an elastomeric material, wherein the plurality of expandable filter sections are longitudinally separated by the at least one seal section.

49. (Previously presented) The system as recited in claim 48, wherein the at least one seal section comprises a plurality of seal sections.

50. (Canceled)

51. (Previously presented) The system as recited in claim 48, wherein the at least one seal section has an expansion ratio at least as great as the expansion ratio of the plurality of expandable filter sections.

52. (Previously presented) A method of controlling filtration in a wellbore environment, comprising:

arranging an expandable tubular system with overlapping filter sheets; and

positioning uniquely configured openings in each overlapping filter sheet such that upon expansion of the expandable tubular system, the overlapping filter sheets create a predetermined flow path regime.

53. (Previously presented) The method as recited in claim 52, wherein positioning comprises selecting the predetermined flow path regime to create a pressure drop that varies along the length of the expandable tubular system.

54. (Previously presented) The method as recited in claim 52, wherein positioning comprises selecting the predetermined flow path regime to create a greater restriction to flow in specific regions of the expandable tubular system relative to other regions of the expandable tubular system.

55. (Previously presented) The method as recited in claim 52, further comprising forming the overlapping filter sheets of metal foil.

56. (Previously presented) The method as recited in claim 52, wherein positioning comprises forming the uniquely configured openings with differing shapes on respective overlapping filter sheets of a pair of adjacent overlapping filter sheets.

57. (Previously presented) The method as recited in claim 52, wherein positioning comprises forming the uniquely configured openings as slots at a first angle in a first filter sheet and as slots at a second angle in a second filter sheet.

58. (Previously presented) The method as recited in claim 52, wherein positioning comprises forming the uniquely configured openings such that the openings in a first sheet overlap the openings in a second sheet to create a unique combined openings upon expansion of the expandable tubular system.

59. (Canceled)

60. (Canceled)

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73. (Canceled)

74. (Previously presented) A system for filtering in a wellbore environment, comprising:

a base pipe;

a shroud disposed around the base pipe; and

a plurality of filter sheets in which each filter sheet has a free end, wherein the free ends of adjacent pairs of filter sheets are positioned in an overlapping configuration.

75. (Previously presented) The system as recited in claim 74, wherein each filter sheet has a plurality of slotted openings.

76. (Previously presented) The system as recited in claim 75, wherein the plurality of slotted openings are oriented such that the slotted openings of adjacent pairs of filter sheets crisscross each other.

77. (Previously presented) The system as recited in claim 76, wherein the slotted openings of adjacent pairs of filter sheets are crisscrossed at approximately 90 degrees with respect each other.

78. (Previously presented) A system for filtering in a wellbore environment, comprising:

a base pipe;

a shroud disposed around the base pipe; and

a plurality of filter sheets in which each filter sheet has a free end, wherein the free ends of adjacent pairs of filter sheets are positioned in an overlapping configuration, wherein the plurality of filter sheets are attached to the shroud.

79. (Previously presented) A system for filtering in a wellbore environment, comprising:

a base pipe;

a shroud disposed around the base pipe; and

a plurality of filter sheets in which each filter sheet has a free end, wherein the free ends of adjacent pairs of filter sheets are positioned in an overlapping configuration, wherein the shroud is formed of a plurality of circumferentially adjacent shroud components.